

LHIC Behavioral Health Work Group Meeting
5.28.15 - 9:30 a.m.
Minutes

Members present:

Elena Acs, Grassroots

Ronna Gotthainer, HC Health Dept.

Deb Piez, HC Mental Health Authority

Maura Rossman, HC Health Dept.

Fariborz Zafeshan, ALFA Specialty Pharmacy

Stu Kohn, HC Citizens Association

Roe Rodgers-Bonaccorsy, HC Health Dept.

Joan Webb Scornaienchi, HC DrugFree

Also present:

Alvaro Ortiz, LHIC Program Manager

Welcome and Introductions:

- Roe, work group co-chair, welcomed members and opened the meeting at 9:50 a.m. Members introduced themselves and welcomed guests.

Approval of minutes from previous meeting:

- Roe made a motion to approve the minutes from 4.13.15. The motion was seconded by Joan. Minutes were approved unanimously.

Data change in 2015-2017 Behavioral Health Action Plan:

- Roe informed the group about the updates made to the data included in the 2015-2017 Action Plan. Alvaro mentioned that the changes in the data were a direct result of DHMH's updates to its original data. Members had to objections to the changes.

Plans For Action Groups:

- Roe talked about the three Action Groups created by the group and asked for suggestions as to how members would like to move forward with these groups. Members expressed that due to the variation in attendance at meetings and the interest from multiple members to participate in more than one group, it would be best to dissolve the Action Groups and work in the Action Plan as a larger group.
- Members suggested that, moving forward, meetings could focus on a specific strategy from the Action Plan and that strategies could be chosen on a rotating basis. Members said that if the specific strategy was known in advance, people could come to meetings prepared with relevant information or work on specific assignments between meetings.

General Updates/Group Discussion

- Dr. Rossman talked about some of the outcomes from the Behavioral Task Force recommendations. She shared that the following recommendations were approved for funding:
 - A pilot program to expand rapid access to urgent behavioral health services.

- A Behavioral Health Specialist staff person for the Community Care Team.
 - Funding to improve and expand the Mental Health Authority website and online directory.
- Elena said that it would be important to reach out to a representative from Way Station and invite them to be an active part of the group. She said Way Station plays a big role in terms of mental health programs and advocacy work for behavioral health in Howard County.
 - Elena also noted the unmet need for psychiatric services in the county. She mentioned that Grassroots is currently collecting data to identify the impact on their ED Follow-Up program. However, she said that there is still a big disconnect between providers and the resources available for clients.
 - Roe mentioned that now that the recommendations from the Behavioral Health Task Force have been made, she is going to meet with the LHIC staff to make the necessary changes to the Action Plan. She also noted the grant that the Health Department awarded to HC DrugFree which includes the establishment of an overdose fatality review team.
 - Joan reported that HC Drug Free is currently working on establishing the review team, but that she is waiting to get more details on who should serve as the team's chair. She shared that three permanent medication collection boxes have been established in the county. Joan also mentioned the possibility for a fourth box, depending upon how much the initial boxes are used. Currently, the boxes are under the monitoring of Howard County Police, so before expanding the program, all parties involved would have to agree on all the logistics.
 - Dr. Rossman inquired about the role that pharmacies could play in the disposal of medications and the potential for these collection boxes to be located at pharmacies.
 - Fariborz from ALFA Specialty Pharmacy explained that pharmacies have a very rigid protocol for medicine disposal. All drugs received by a pharmacy need to be divided into two categories: controlled and non-controlled, and that by law pharmacies cannot take controlled medications. He also said the cost of the disposal can be a challenge as well as the capacity for individual pharmacies to do this.
 - However, following the current model of the collection boxes from HC DrugFree, where medication is simply dropped off at a box without anyone collecting it, he believes there is a possibility that pharmacies could collaborate in the project. Fariborz is going to find more information about the issue and report back to the group.

Action Items

- LHIC staff will follow up with the point of contact from Way Station in an effort to increase attendance at the meetings.
- Roe will meet with LHIC staff to edit current action plan.

Next Meeting

- The next meeting will be on Monday, June 08 at 2:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Alvaro Ortiz
LHIC Program Manager